



**Submitted Date:** 9/27/2010 1:48:23 PM

**Easygrants ID:** 358

<b>Funding Opportunity:</b> Category Two	<b>Applicant Organization:</b> USDA Forest Service- Sequoia National Forest
<b>Task:</b> Submit Application Non-EO	<b>Applicant Name:</b> Mrs. Priscilla Summers



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PROJECT CONTACT INFORMATION	
<b>Name</b>	Mrs. Priscilla Summers,
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	USDA Forest Service-Sequoia National Forest
<b>Primary Address</b>	32588 Highway 190, , , Springville, CA, 93265
<b>Primary Phone/Fax</b>	559-539-2607 Ext. 210
<b>Primary Email</b>	psummers@fs.fed.us

<b>Name</b>	Mrs. Priscilla Summers,
<b>Title</b>	
<b>Organization</b>	USDA Forest Service-Sequoia National Forest
<b>Primary Address</b>	32588 Highway 190, , , Springville, CA, 93265
<b>Primary Phone/Fax</b>	559-539-2607 Ext. 210
<b>Primary Email</b>	psummers@fs.fed.us



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#### PROJECT INFORMATION

<b>Project Title</b>	Long Meadow Restoration Project
<b>Brief Description</b>	This grant will provide for pre-project planning and environmental review to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA document for the long term restoration work at Long Meadow. The outcome would be a fully supported decision specifying on-the-ground implementation measures to restore ecosystem conditions and protect natural and cultural resources.
<b>Total Requested Amount</b>	72,320.00
<b>Other Fund Proposed</b>	25,529.00
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	97,849.00
<b>Project Category</b>	Pre-Project Due Diligence
<b>Project Area/Size</b>	0000
<b>Project Area Type</b>	Not Applicable
<b>Have you submitted to SNC this fiscal year?</b>	No
<b>Is this application related to other SNC funding?</b>	No

#### Project Results

CEQA/NEPA Compliance

<b>Project Purpose</b>	<b>Project Purpose Percent</b>
Resource Management	



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<b>County</b>
Tulare

<b>Sub Region</b>
South



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#### PROJECT OTHER CONTACTS INFORMATION

##### Other Grant Project Contacts

Name:	Robin Galloway,
Project Role:	Day-to-Day Responsibility
Phone:	5595392607
Phone Ext:	280
E-mail:	rgalloway@fs.fed.us
Name:	Diane Anderson,
Project Role:	Fiscal Manager
Phone:	5597841500
Phone Ext:	1254
E-mail:	danderson@fs.fed.us
Name:	Jean Rousseau,
Project Role:	County Administration
Phone:	0000
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	phogue@co.tulare.ca.us
Name:	Service California Water,
Project Role:	Water Agency 1 Contact
Phone:	7603795336
Phone Ext:	
E-mail:	cwhitley@calwater.com
Name:	Priscilla Summers,
Project Role:	Authorized Representative
Phone:	5595392607
Phone Ext:	210
E-mail:	psummers@fs.fed.us



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## PROJECT LOCATION INFORMATION

### Project Location

Address:	32588 Highway 190, , , Springville, CA, 93265 United States
Water Agency:	CA Water Service Co
Latitude:	355854.8
Longitude:	-118.3447
Congressional District:	na
Senate:	na
Assembly:	na
Within City Limits:	No
City Name:	



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## PROJECT BUDGET INFORMATION

### Direct

Description	Num of Units	Per Unit Cost	Total
Staff/Personnel-senior hydrologist	1	4,100.00	4,100.00
Staff/Personnel-hydrologist	1	7,800.00	7,800.00
Staff/Personnel-biologist	1	5,880.00	5,880.00
Staff/Personnel-botanist/range	1	5,120.00	5,120.00
Staff/Personnel-Archaeologist	1	6,340.00	6,340.00
Staff/Personnel-Archaeologist Survey Crew	1	12,000.00	12,000.00
Staff/Personnel-Planner	1	12,280.00	12,280.00
Contracts/Consultant s-TEAMS hydro engineer	1	5,000.00	5,000.00
Fees-401/404 permit from ACE	1	5,000.00	5,000.00





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Fees-CEQA coordination	1	2,500.00	2,500.00

<b>Total Direct</b>	66,020.00
<b>Direct Detail</b>	

#### Indirect

Description	Num of Units	Per Unit Cost	Total
Printed Materials-public notifications	1	100.00	100.00
Performance measure report	1	1,000.00	1,000.00

<b>Total Indirect</b>	1,100.00
<b>Indirect Detail</b>	

#### Administrative

Description	Num of Units	Per Unit Cost	Total
Administrative Costs-Administration/Budget & Accounting	1	5,200.00	5,200.00

<b>Total Administrative</b>	5,200.00
<b>Administrative Detail</b>	



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<b>Budget Grant Total:</b> 72,320.00
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### PROJECT OTHER SUPPORT INFORMATION

#### Other Support for the Sierra Nevada

Type :	Major In-Kind Contr
Estimated Amount:	1,800.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Public scoping and participation
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Application Submitted
Description:	pending

Type :	Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount:	2,050.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Senior Hydrologist
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Received
Description:	na

Type :	Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount:	2,600.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Hydrologist
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Received
Description:	na

Type :	Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount:	5,000.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Stream Survey Crew
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Received



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Description:	na
Type :	Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount:	1,960.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Biologist
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Received
Description:	na
Type :	Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount:	1,280.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	GIS Specialist
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Received
Description:	na
Type :	Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount:	634.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Archaeologist
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Received
Description:	na
Type :	Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount:	1,760.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Dsitric Public Affairs
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Application Submitted
Description:	Pending

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Type :	Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount:	1,800.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Assistant Recreation Officer
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Application Submitted
Description:	Pending
Type :	Major In-Kind Contr
Estimated Amount:	1,500.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Vehicles
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Application Submitted
Description:	pending
Type :	Volunteer Hours
Estimated Amount:	2,800.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Volunteers, Wild Places
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Application Submitted
Description:	Pending
Type :	Major In-Kind Contr
Estimated Amount:	2,345.00
Estimated Volunteer Hours:	0
Source:	Forest Website (document release)
Source Type:	Other
Status:	Application Submitted
Description:	pending

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<b>Estimated Total Amount of Resources Leveraged</b>	25,529.00
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## PROJECT REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS

### Regulatory Requirements

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## PROJECT TIMELINE INFORMATION

### Project Timeline

Milestone/Activity: Prep eng site design, field surveys, obtain permit  
Description:  
Expected Date: 06/30/2011  
Deliverable: True

Milestone/Activity: Initiate CEQA/NEPA analysis, issue PIL to SNC  
Description:  
Expected Date: 05/30/2011  
Deliverable: True

Milestone/Activity: Begin project scoping, dist PIL to specialists  
Description:  
Expected Date: 07/30/2011  
Deliverable: True

Milestone/Activity: Develop proposed action items  
Description: maps, letters, website, meetings, site trip  
Expected Date: 08/31/2011  
Deliverable: True

Milestone/Activity: Analyze results, identify issues, develop alts  
Description:  
Expected Date: 09/30/2011  
Deliverable: True

Milestone/Activity: Complete specialists reports  
Description:  
Expected Date: 10/31/2011  
Deliverable: True





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Milestone/Activity:	CEQA/NEPA prelim documents prepped, to public
Description:	
Expected Date:	12/31/2011
Deliverable:	True
Milestone/Activity:	Analyze CEQA public comments
Description:	
Expected Date:	12/31/2011
Deliverable:	True
Milestone/Activity:	Issue DN, FONSI or ROD
Description:	
Expected Date:	02/28/2012
Deliverable:	True
Milestone/Activity:	Complete 6 month progress report
Description:	
Expected Date:	10/31/2011
Deliverable:	True
Milestone/Activity:	Complete 2nd 6 month progress report
Description:	
Expected Date:	04/30/2012
Deliverable:	True
Milestone/Activity:	Complete final report & submit to SNC
Description:	
Expected Date:	10/31/2012
Deliverable:	True

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#### PROJECT PEER REVIEWER INFORMATION

##### Reviewers

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### UPLOADS

The following pages contain the following uploads provided by the applicant:

Upload Name
Completed Checklist
Table of Contents
Application Form
Authorization to Apply or Resolution
Project Summary
Evaluation Criteria Narrative
Evaluation Criteria Narrative
Detailed Budget Form
Performance Measures
Environmental Setting and Impacts

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Project Location Map
Topographic Map
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Photos of the Project Site
Land Tenure- Only for Site Improvement Projects
Leases or Agreements
CEQA Documentation
NEPA Documentation
Regulatory Requirements or Permits
Letters of Support
Letters of Support

---



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Letters of Support
Letters of Support
Parcel Map Showing County Assessors Parcel Number

To preserve the integrity of the uploaded document, headers, footers and page numbers have not been added by the system.

## Application Checklist for Category Two Grants

Project Name: Long Meadow Restoration Project

Applicant: USDA Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest, Western Divide Ranger District

Please mark each box: check if item is included in the application; mark "N/A" if not applicable to the project. Please consult with SNC staff prior to submission if you have any questions about the applicability to your project of any items on the checklist. All applications must include a CD including an electronic file of each checklist item, if applicable. The naming convention for each electronic file is listed after each item on the checklist. (Electronic File Name = EFN: "naming convention". file extension choices)

1. ☒ Completed Checklist (EFN: Checklist.docx)
2. ☒ Table of Contents (EFN: TOC.docx)
3. ☒ Application Form (EFN: AppForm.docx)
4. ☒ Authorization to Apply or Resolution (EFN: AuthRes.pdf)
- 5a. ☐ Articles of Incorporation [501(c)(3)s only] (N/A)
- 5b. ☐ Bylaws [501(c)(3)s only] (N/A)
- 5c. ☐ Tax Exempt Status letter from the Internal Revenue Service [501(c)(3)s only] (N/A)
6. ☒ Project Summary (Two Page Maximum) (EFN: ProjSum.docx)
7. ☒ Evaluation Criteria Narrative (EFN : EvalCrit.docx)
8. ☒ Detailed Budget Form (EFN: Budget.xlsx)
9. ☒ Performance Measures (EFN: Perform.docx)
10. ☒ Environmental Setting and Impacts (EFN: EnvSetImp.docx)
11. ☒ Project Location Map (EFN: LocMap.pdf)
12. ☒ Parcel Map showing County Assessor's Parcel Number(s) (EFN: ParcelMap.pdf)
13. ☒ Topographic Map (EFN: Topo.pdf)
14. ☒ Photos of the Project Site (10 maximum) (ENF: Photo.jpg)
15. ☒ Land Tenure (EFN: Tenure.pdf)
16. ☒ Leases or Agreements (EFN: LeaseAgrmnt.pdf)
17. ☒ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (EFN: CEQA.pdf) (N/A)
18. ☒ National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (If applicable) (EFN: NEPA.pdf) (N/A)
19. ☒ Regulatory Requirements / Permits (ENF: RegPermit.pdf)
20. ☒ Demonstrations of Support (EFN: DOS.pdf)
21. ☐ Executive Officer Authorization Request Form (**only** for time-sensitive projects up to \$50,000) (N/A)

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**SIERRA NEVADA CONSERVANCY  
PROPOSITION 84 GRANT APPLICATION FORM  
CATEGORY TWO GRANT**

Rev. January 2010

*Complete all applicable items on both pages of form.*

<b>1. PROJECT NAME</b> Long Meadow Restoration Project	<b>2. REFERENCE NUMBER</b>														
<b>3. APPLICANT (Agency name, address, and zip code)</b> USDA-Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest Western Divide Ranger District 32588 Highway 190, Springville, CA 93265	<b>4. APPLICANT TYPE:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Non-profit Organization <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Tribal Organization														
<b>5. APPLICANT'S AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Name and title – type or print</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Phone</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Email Address</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mr.                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Priscilla Summers, District Ranger    (559) 539-2607, ext 210    psummers@fs.fed.us                         </td> </tr> </table>		<i>Name and title – type or print</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Priscilla Summers, District Ranger    (559) 539-2607, ext 210    psummers@fs.fed.us							
<i>Name and title – type or print</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email Address</i>													
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.															
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Priscilla Summers, District Ranger    (559) 539-2607, ext 210    psummers@fs.fed.us															
<b>6. PERSON WITH DAY-TO-DAY RESPONSIBILITY FOR ADMINISTRATION OF THE GRANT</b> <i>(If different from Authorized Representative)</i> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Name and title – type or print</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Phone</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Email Address</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mr.                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Robin Galloway, Wildlife Biologist    (559) 539-2607, ext. 280    rgalloway@fs.fed.us                         </td> </tr> </table>		<i>Name and title – type or print</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Robin Galloway, Wildlife Biologist    (559) 539-2607, ext. 280    rgalloway@fs.fed.us							
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<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.															
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<b>7. PERSON WITH FISCAL MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR GRANT CONTRACT/INVOICING</b> <i>(If different from Authorized Representative or Day to Day Administrator)</i> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Name and title – type or print</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Phone</i></td> <td style="text-align: center;"><i>Email Address</i></td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> <input type="checkbox"/> Mr.                         </td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Diane Anderson, Budget Analyst    (559) 784-1500, ext.1254    danderson@fs.fed.us                         </td> </tr> </table>		<i>Name and title – type or print</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email Address</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Diane Anderson, Budget Analyst    (559) 784-1500, ext.1254    danderson@fs.fed.us							
<i>Name and title – type or print</i>	<i>Phone</i>	<i>Email Address</i>													
<input type="checkbox"/> Mr.															
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ms. Diane Anderson, Budget Analyst    (559) 784-1500, ext.1254    danderson@fs.fed.us															
<b>8. FUNDING INFORMATION</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 40%;">SNC Grant Request <i>(Up to \$250,000)</i></td> <td style="width: 60%; text-align: right;">\$ <u>\$72,320.00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Other Funds</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ <u>\$25,529.00</u></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total Project Cost</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$ <u>\$97,849.00</u></td> </tr> </table>		SNC Grant Request <i>(Up to \$250,000)</i>	\$ <u>\$72,320.00</u>	Other Funds	\$ <u>\$25,529.00</u>	Total Project Cost	\$ <u>\$97,849.00</u>								
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Other Funds	\$ <u>\$25,529.00</u>														
Total Project Cost	\$ <u>\$97,849.00</u>														
<b>9. PROJECT CATEGORY</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pre-Project Planning	<b>9a. DELIVERABLES (Select <u>one</u> primary deliverable)</b> <table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Study/Report</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Data</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Plan</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Condition Assessment</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Model/Map</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Title Report</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Design/Permit</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA Compliance</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Biological/Other Survey(s)</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I/II)</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	<input type="checkbox"/> Study/Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Data	<input type="checkbox"/> Appraisal	<input type="checkbox"/> Plan	<input type="checkbox"/> Condition Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Model/Map	<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Title Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Design/Permit	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA Compliance		<input type="checkbox"/> Biological/Other Survey(s)		<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I/II)	
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<input type="checkbox"/> Condition Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Model/Map														
<input type="checkbox"/> Preliminary Title Report	<input type="checkbox"/> Design/Permit														
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> CEQA/NEPA Compliance															
<input type="checkbox"/> Biological/Other Survey(s)															
<input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Site Assessment (Phase I/II)															
<b>10. PROJECT ADDRESS/LOCATION</b> <i>(Include zip code)</i> Western Divide Ranger District, 32588 Highway 190, Springville, CA 93265															
<b>11. Latitude and Longitude</b> 35°58'54.8"N; -118°34'47"W															
<b>12. COUNTY</b> Tulare	<b>13. CITY</b> <i>(Is project within city limits? If so, which one?)</i> N/A														

**14. NEAREST PUBLIC WATER AGENCY (OR AGENCIES) CONTACT INFORMATION:**

Name: Chris Whitley, Local Manager, California Water Service Co. (Kern River Valley District)

Phone Number: (760) 379-5336

Email address: [cwhitley@calwater.com](mailto:cwhitley@calwater.com)

Name:

Phone Number:

Email address:

**15. CEQA OR NEPA DOCUMENT TYPE** (if applicable)

☐ Notice of Exemption

☐ Negative Declaration

☐ Environmental Impact Report

☐ Finding of No Significant Impact

☐ Environmental Impact Statement

☒ Joint CEQA/NEPA Document

**16. State Clearinghouse Number****17. Executive Officer Authorization**

Is an EO Authorization being requested:

☐ Yes

☒ No

I certify that the information contained in the Application, including required attachments, is accurate.

Signed (*Authorized Representative*)

Date

Priscilla Summers, District Ranger

Name and Title (*print or type*)



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Forest  
Service

Sequoia  
National  
Forest

1839 South Newcomb St.  
Porterville, CA 93257-9353  
(559) 784-1500  
(559) 781-6650 TDD

**File Code:** 1500/1580

**Date:** September 8, 2010

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Ste. 205  
Auburn, California 95603

To Whom It May Concern:

On behalf of the USDA-Forest Service, I am requesting the Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) to consider and fund the submitted Proposition 84 - Category Two grant application for the Long Meadow Restoration Project. The proposed project is located entirely on lands administered by Sequoia National Forest and within Giant Sequoia National Monument.

This pre-project planning grant will allow for the timely completion of an environmental review, including associated field surveys and specialist assessments to ensure the long-term sustainability of Long Meadow. The fully executed Environmental Assessment (joint CEQA-NEPA document) and Record of Decision will provide specific on-the-ground implementation measures to move forward with meadow restoration efforts preventing further site deterioration.

The Long Meadow Restoration Project has been identified as a high priority project for the protection of water quality, the long term hydrologic and vegetative stability of the Meadow, its associated cultural and recreation values. Sequoia National Forest serves as the headwaters for local waterways and their beneficial uses. Therefore, maintaining healthy watersheds is one of the highest priorities to protect and restore as written in the Presidential Proclamation establishing the Giant Sequoia National Monument. Forest restoration funds, however, are currently limited with the need and priority to complete planning efforts for the Monument Management Plan and upcoming Forest Plan Revision.

This letter provides my authorization and approval for submittal of the Long Meadow Restoration Project application to SNC. The Forest is committed to restore and maintain the natural resources consistent with the long-term benefits described under Proposition 84. We agree to comply with all legal requirements as determined during the application process.

District Ranger Priscilla Summers, Western Divide Ranger District, is appointed as my designee or agent to conduct all negotiations, execute and submit all documents, including but not limited to: applications, agreements, payment requests, and so on, which may be necessary for the completion of the aforementioned project.



We look forward to working with you on this new partnership. If you have any questions, please call Priscilla Summers, District Ranger, or Robin Galloway, District Wildlife/Fish Biologist, at (559) 539-2607.

Sincerely,

  
for TINA J. TERRELL  
Forest Supervisor

## **PROJECT SUMMARY**

**County:** Tulare

**Applicant:** USDA Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest, Western Divide Ranger District

**Project Title:** Long Meadow Restoration Project

### **PROJECT GOAL**

The goal of this project is to repair a large and unstable headcut within Long Meadow. These conditions are impacting the stability of the meadow through accelerated loss of meadow vegetation and soil, resulting in negative consequences to water quality and downstream aquatic habitats. Long Meadow also contains unique cultural and scenic resources which could be compromised through continued meadow degradation. Proposition 84 grant funds will provide for pre-project planning and environmental review to allow implementation of the Long Meadow Restoration Project. This project is consistent with Proposition 84 requirements to protect and restore water sources and their associated lands. This project is consistent with Sierra Nevada Conservancy goals to protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical and cultural resources and improve water quality. This project will contribute to the protection and restoration of the Long Meadow Creek sub-watershed and larger Wild and Scenic Middle Kern River watershed.

### **PROJECT SCOPE**

This grant will provide for pre-project planning and environmental review to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA document for the long term restoration work at Long Meadow. The outcome would be a fully supported decision specifying on-the-ground implementation measures to restore ecosystem conditions and protect natural and cultural resources. Resource specialists will perform necessary reports, assessments, and site surveys. Other activities will include preparing and completing plans for a site specific project design. The project will include costs to acquire a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, Section 401 Permit from California Regional Water Quality Control Board, and possibly a Streambed Alteration Agreement from California Department of Fish & Game. The project will include coordination with Sierra Nevada Conservancy for preparation of a joint NEPA/CEQA document. The pre-planning and environmental review will lead to project implementation to establish a low gradient step pool system from the bottom of the meadow up to the headcut. These actions will reduce the steepened flow gradient created by the headcut that currently promotes undercutting of the meadow, bank slumping, and soil transport. Exposed areas will be resloped to match the natural contours and planting of native vegetation will further stabilize the bankments. The Forest Service will provide in-kind services and contributions of salary, vehicle mileage, survey materials, print, and distribution costs to support the accomplishment of the project. This application will compliment a proposal submitted to SNC by the Giant Sequoia National Monument Association under this grant cycle. This Category 1 application will rehabilitate portions of the Trail of 100 Giants loop trail located in Long Meadow Grove, a popular recreation destination. These improvements will further decrease sediment transport into stream environments.

## LETTERS OF SUPPORT

Letters of support are provided by the following individuals and organizations:

1. WildPlaces Ecological Restoration and Education (non-profit)
2. J. Less Guthrie – Rancher and Grazing Permittee
3. Giant Sequoia National Monument Association

## SNC PROJECT DELIVERABLES AND SCHEDULE

DETAILED PROJECT DELIVERABLES	TIMELINE
Initiate joint NEPA/CEQA environmental analysis and issue Project Initiation letter (PIL); submit to SNC.	May 2011
Prepare engineering site design, conduct field surveys, and obtain regulatory permits; Army Corps of Engineers, Section 404 Permit; Water Quality Waiver, CA State Water Quality Board; and possible Streambed and Lakebed Alteration Agreement from CA Dept. of Fish & Game.	May-June 2011
Begin Internal & Interagency project scoping. Distribute PIL to Forest Service resource specialists (hydrology, soils, archaeology, wildlife biology, botany, etc.).	June-July 2011
Based on identified purpose and need, Forest Service develops proposed action and prepares scoping letter/map; schedule public meetings; issue press release; post on Sequoia NF website; conduct public meetings and possible field trip.	July-August 2011
Analyze results of public scoping and identify issues and concerns. Develop alternatives.	August -September 2011
Complete specialists reports including: Biological Evaluation/Assessment (BE/BA), Archaeological Reconnaissance Report, Vegetation & Hydrology Reports.	September-October 2011
Prepare joint CEQA/NEPA preliminary environmental document; send to public for appropriate public comment period.	October –December 2011
Analyze public comments received.	December 2011
Prepare and issue appropriate final environmental and decision documents; i.e., Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Record of Decision (ROD).	January-February 2012
Complete six-month progress report/submit to SNC	October 2011
Complete six report/submit to SNC	April 2012
Complete final report/submit to SNC	October 2012

## SNC PROJECT COSTS

PROJECT BUDGET CATEGORIES	TOTAL SNC FUNDING
Staff/Personnel Expense	\$53,520.00
Contracts/Consultants: Hydro-Engineer to design project site plan	\$5,000.00
Fees – Section 404 & 401 Permits	\$5,000.00
Fees – CEQA coordination	\$2,500.00
Indirect Costs: Performance Measure Reports	\$1,000.00
Indirect Costs: Public Notifications	\$100.00
Administrative Oversight/Budgeting and Accounting	\$5,200.00
<b>SNC GRANT TOTAL</b>	<b>\$72,320.00</b>

## **7. Evaluation Criteria**

### **A. Project Quality and Readiness**

#### **1. General Description**

The proposed project will provide for pre-project planning and environmental review necessary to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA document to allow for implementation of the Long Meadow Restoration Project. The outcome would be a fully supported decision specifying future on-the-ground implementation measures to restore ecosystem conditions, water quality, and the protection of cultural resources.

Long Meadow is unique in its character and natural setting. It sits just below Long Meadow Giant Sequoia Grove a popular destination for many overseas tourists and local residents, who come to view the largest trees on earth. Long Meadow is within the view shed of two existing campgrounds and a day use site adjacent to the grove and greatly enhances the recreational experience for visitors. The meadow provides value as a working landscape through its inclusion as part of an active grazing allotment, and also has importance to local Native American tribes as a historic use area. The long term stability of the meadow is being threatened by a large headcut which has become established at the bottom of the meadow. Left in its current condition, the headcut will continue to expand, promoting significant losses of meadow vegetation and soil, reductions in water quality, and sedimentation of downstream environments. These conditions will impact the natural hydrology of the meadow over time, and lead to a lowering of the water table and meadow drying. Unique cultural attributes will be impacted through losses in soil that may expose and transport them off site under high spring flows.

Long Meadow is located in the Long Meadow Creek sub-watershed which drains to the Middle Kern River Watershed. This Middle Kern River Watershed has experienced several devastating fires (McNally Fire and the recent Bull Fire) which have worked to decrease water quality and valuable in-stream conditions. Arresting additional sources of sediment delivery such as those contributed by Long Meadow is considered desirable.

The environmental review will lead to restoration project implementation and the following deliverables: A low gradient step pool system will be established from the bottom of the meadow up to the headcut. These actions will reduce the steepened flow gradient created by the headcut that currently promotes undercutting of the meadow, bank slumping, and soil transport. After the creation of the step pool system, exposed areas will be resloped to match the natural contours and planted with native vegetation such as willows to further stabilize banks.

This grant will provide salary costs of a project manager to complete the environmental analysis and subsequent joint NEPA/CEQA document; fund salary costs to complete remaining field surveys and project reports including the

Archaeological Reconnaissance Report (ARR), Biological Evaluation/ Assessment (BE/BA), Hydrological and Botanical Reports; fund costs of a contracted Hydrologic Engineer to complete a site design plan; fund costs to prepare six-month and final progress report; fund costs to coordinate with SNC to complete appropriate CEQA requirements; and fund costs to obtain regulatory permits from Army Corps of Engineers – Section 404 Permit, California State Water Quality Board - Section 401 Permit and Streambed and Lakebed Alteration Agreement (if required) from California Department of Fish and Game.

Implementation of the Long Meadow Restoration Project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended. The project will work to complement another proposal submitted to SNC under Category 1 application (this grant cycle) which would improve interpretation resources along the “Trail of 100 Giants” loop trail and improve trail conditions to reduce erosion.

Related activities that have been completed to date supportive of any future analysis include: one set of aquatic field surveys for sensitive species (no occurrences detected), a partial archaeological survey, and field monitoring surveys of five study sites at Long Meadow completed by the District Hydrologist from 2005 through 2008. The purpose of the Hydrologist’s study was to determine the rate of headcut migration and the amount of soil loss contributed by the headcut. This work appropriately documents and supports the need to complete meadow restoration work at this time. Given the location of the headcut and natural meadow slope, further upslope migration will occur. With the environmental review complete, project implementation will arrest the continued degradation of the meadow. Significant natural resources will be protected from future loss (meadow habitat, water quality, archeological attributes) and economic benefits will be realized by addressing the problem early.

## 2. Workplan and Schedule

(a) Specific tasks and schedule needed to complete the project include:

- Initiate joint NEPA/CEQA environmental analysis and issue Project Initiation letter (PIL); submit to SNC; (May 2011)
- Prepare engineering site design, conduct field surveys, and obtain regulatory permits: Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, Water Quality Waiver from CA State Water Quality Board, and Streambed and Lakebed Alteration Agreement (if required) from CA Department of Fish and Game; (May-June 2011)
- Begin internal and interagency project scoping. Distribute PIL to Forest Service resource specialists (hydrology, soils, archaeology, wildlife biology, botany, etc.); (June-July 2011)
- Based on identified purpose and need, Forest Service develops proposed action and prepares scoping letter/map; schedule public meetings; issue



- press release; post on Sequoia NF website; conduct public meetings, and possible field trip; (July-August 2011)
- Analyze results of public scoping and identify issues and concerns. Develop alternatives; (August-September 2011)
  - Complete specialists reports including: Biological Evaluation/Assessment (BE/BA) Report, Archaeological Reconnaissance (ARR) Report, Vegetation and Hydrology Reports; (September-October 2011)
  - Prepare joint CEQA/NEPA preliminary environmental document; send to public for appropriate public comment period. (October–December 2011)
  - Analyze public comments received; (December 2011)
  - Prepare and issue appropriate final environmental and decision documents; i.e., Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Record of Decision (ROD); (January-February 2012)
  - Complete six-month progress report and submit to SNC (October 2011)
  - Complete six-month progress report and submit to SNC (April 2012)
  - Complete Final report to SNC (October 2012)

(b) Factors affecting the project timeline will be related to results of public scoping which has the potential to alter the purpose and need of the project. To address this, the Forest Service will work collaboratively with the public and interagency partners during the public participation process. If needed, they will conduct a field trip to the project site to increase awareness of project goals and outcomes, especially for those unfamiliar with the area. Performance measures will also be used to track progress and assist the Forest in implementing the project in a timely manner.

### 3. Budget

- (a) Total in-kind services realized or expected is \$25,529. This includes \$13,524 previously committed funds for specialist surveys and GIS work. This includes one set of aquatic field surveys for sensitive species, a partial archaeological survey, and field monitoring surveys of five study sites at Long Meadow completed by the District Hydrologist from 2005 through 2008. The Forest Service will provide an additional in-kind contributions of \$9,205 for associate staff for technical expertise and administrative/funding for the environmental review and public scoping process. WildPlaces has committed to assist the Forest with in-kind donations of labor for the completion of further meadow surveys in 2011 (estimated dollar amount \$2,800). This would include the use of two individuals for a week time period to aid with data collection with the District Hydrologist in the pre-planning phase. WildPlaces has also committed to provide staff and volunteers for the on-the-ground implementation of the project. They will utilize a volunteer work force to maintain the District nursery, collect and root appropriate native plants, and complete the re-vegetation phase of the project.

Requested funding for the project includes: associate staff time to complete environmental planning (project manager); salary costs of resource specialists to complete remaining field surveys and project reports; fund costs to obtain regulatory permits; fund engineering contractor costs for a site design plan; fund costs to coordinate with SNC on CEQA; and fund costs to prepare a six-month and final progress report. Total requested funding is \$72,320. No other state, federal, or local funding has been received for the project.

- (b) The project is not dependent on other funding sources at this time. Requested funding from SNC will be sufficient to complete the necessary pre-planning and environmental review.
- (c) The applicant has not received other state generated funds.
- (d) The Long Meadow Project is similar to the Last Chance Meadow Restoration Project completed in 1999. NEPA environmental analysis was completed at a cost of approximately \$50,000; the Long Meadow project costs are calculated at \$72,320. Existing data for Long Meadow project has been provided by a Forest Service hydrology survey crew. Collected data will provide information needed for designing the restoration work. The designs will prevent further meadow habitat loss and reduce future costs. Future costs would increase if restoration work is not completed. The amount of erosion occurring on-site would require more fill, rock, and structures to maintain bank stability.

#### 4. Status of agreements and land tenure

(a) Agreement letters of support and commitments from project partners is included in this grant application. These include letters from the following individuals and agencies:

- 1) WildPlaces Ecological Restoration and Education
- 2) J. Less Guthrie, rancher and term grazing permit holder
- 3) Giant Sequoia National Monument Association

(b) Land Tenure: the proposed project will be conducted entirely on national forest system lands under management of the Sequoia National Forest (grant applicant).

#### **B. Proposition 84 Land and Water Benefits**

- 1. The grant provides pre-project planning and environmental review to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA environmental document for the long term restoration work at Long Meadow. Completion of these regulatory documents will allow implementation to move forward in a more timely fashion than if depending on agency funding. On-the-ground project implementation will contribute to the long term protection of the Long Meadow Creek sub-watershed and larger Middle Kern River Watershed. Collectively the above actions meet Proposition 84

requirements to protect and restore water sources and their associated lands. The project addresses existing and potential threats to water and watersheds and other natural resources. The number of collaboratively developed plans/reports Performance Measure (PM) will result in a joint CEQA/NEPA environmental document, a specific project goal and deliverable. Specialist reports will support understanding of ecosystem conditions, management options, and provide valuable habitat/archaeological surveys. The percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts PM resulting in project implementation will be 100% which will meet the desired outcome. Through the public participation process, the Forest Service will increase awareness of watershed protection, increase understanding of restoration work, and ultimately track measureable changes in knowledge. Through the environmental review, the Forest Service will measure number of people reached through information-sharing and education efforts during the public participation process. Formal and informal communication techniques will include meetings, social networking, phone, and mail contact. The number of people will be tracked through sign-in sheets at meetings, mailing lists, and the forest web site and their input incorporated during the plan development. The dollar value of resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada will be from Forest Service in-kind contributions and those provided by WildPlaces.. The number and type of jobs created will include hiring an engineering contractor to complete a site design plan for the restoration work. The number of new, improved, or preserved economic activities will include improved economic investment of watershed values and cultural resources, and benefit for the associated land, water, and other natural resources.

2. The future implementation of the Long Meadow Restoration Project will add to the sustainability of the watershed and the land uses that occur within it. Through project implementation a low gradient step pool system will be established from the bottom of the meadow up to the headcut. These actions will reduce the steepened gradient created by the headcut that currently promotes undercutting of the meadow, bank slumping, and soil transport. With the creation of the step pool system, the meadow will be stabilized with negative influences removed that contribute to decreased water quality and impacts to the overall watershed. Through project implementation, long term meadow stability and resiliency will be improved providing for its longevity in the future. Keeping the meadow in a healthy condition will maintain its scenic value promoting its continued use as a popular recreation destination, and as part of a working landscape for the permittee. Both provide benefits to the local economy. The Western Divide Ranger District has identified a future project to expand the interpretive signing at the existing Trail of 100 Giants located west of Long Meadow. This project is not expected to have any impacts on Long Meadow Restoration project area. The meadow is part of an active grazing allotment and receives only sporadic use by the permittee as a gathering area, or for horse stock, at the end of the season. Measures will continue to be implemented to protect the restoration site until full recovery has occurred.

3. Meadows throughout the Sierra Nevada have experienced important climate changes in vegetation and hydrology since the 1850s. Because of the connection between vegetation and groundwater systems, the lowering of the water table, resulting from changes in hydrologic patterns and processes, can typically result in a shift from native wet meadow vegetation to more xeric vegetation. Left in its current condition, the headcut in Long Meadow will continue to expand, promoting significant losses of meadow vegetation and soil. It will impact the natural hydrology of the meadow over time, and lead to a lowering of the water table and meadow drying. This project will reduce sedimentation and soil transport to downstream reaches and sustain groundwater storage within the meadow environment. It will retain and enhance carbon sequestration by retaining soils on site. Replanting native vegetation and willows along the stream bank will provide for surface and bank stabilization, which decreases sediment supply and increases stream channel stability.

### **C. SNC Program Goals**

- (a) Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation

The public participation process will increase awareness of Long Meadow and Long Meadow Giant Sequoia Grove, thus increasing opportunities for tourism and recreation. Participation will include diverse outreach to the public, Sierra Nevada residents, youth (under 18 years of age), conservation groups/individuals, permittees, landowners, resource professionals, elected officials, and other interested government agencies and organizations. The Number and Diversity of People Reached PM will be tracked during the public scoping phase through public meetings, social networking, emails, phone and person to person contacts. The Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessment PM will support understanding of conditions, improve collaboration with local communities, and help promote tourist opportunities within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. With the environmental review complete, project implementation will keep the meadow in a healthy condition, maintain its scenic value and promote its continued use as a popular recreation destination.

- (b) Protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources.

The project will result in direct benefits to protect valuable meadow habitat and water quality, restore the long term hydrological condition, and protect associated cultural and recreation values. The Forest Service will quantify benefits by tracking the percent of pre-project and planning efforts PM resulting in project implementation through the workplan and scheduled timeline that identifies specific tasks and deliverables to complete the project. The Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments PM will help the Forest Service plan for the restoration implementation phase, provide management options, and gain public support and understanding for the project. Tangible benefits will include written documents

developed by a broad public and private coalition; they will be provided to the stakeholders for public review and comment, and they will be available to the public when complete.

(c) Aid in the preservation of working landscapes

Changes in and loss of habitat can damage the health of our forests, impact water quality and affect cultural attributes that may be impacted through losses in soil that may expose and transport them off site. Increasing “above-the-dam,” basin-wide natural water storage systems such as the intended meadow restoration project and associated re-vegetation will aid in the preservation of the working landscape. The project will promote actions to improve natural water storage and recharge capacities. The project will support efforts and provide tangible benefits to reduce impacts of climate change (such as carbon sequestration) by implementing measures to stabilize and sustain carbon producing soils and vegetation. Significant natural resources will be protected from future loss (meadow habitat, water quality, archaeological attributes) and improved economic benefits will be realized by addressing the problem early.

(d) Reduce the risk of natural disasters

Promoting good land management practices contribute to overall forest health and resiliency. This project will improve and sustain the long term stability of Long Meadow and its natural water storage systems thereby reducing the risk and impacts of a natural disaster such as a catastrophic wildfire or flooding brought on by a heavy snowpack. This project will protect the natural hydrology of the meadow and prevent losses in soil that may expose and transport them off site under unusually high spring flows. A warming climate such as decreased snowpack, larger and more severe catastrophic wildfires and changes in and loss of habitat can damage the health and sustainability of the forest and watershed values.

(e) Protect and improve water and air quality

This project will provide the pre-planning and environmental review, including associated hydrologic surveys and specialist reports, to implement future restoration work to protect and improve water quality. Long term stability of the meadow is being threatened by a large headcut which has become established at the bottom of the meadow. Left in its current condition, the headcut will continue to expand, promoting significant reductions in water quality, losses of meadow vegetation and soil, and sedimentation of downstream environments. By establishing a low gradient step pool system from the bottom of the meadow up to the headcut, these actions will reduce the steepened flow gradient created by the headcut that currently promotes reductions in water quality and undercutting of the meadow. These actions will also stabilize and secure the bank, and protect and improve water quality.

An essential element in successfully storing carbon in the Sierra Nevada region is well-managed, sustainable forests. This project will contribute to help achieve the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and reduce warming impacts by identifying actions during the completion of an environmental review. The joint NEPA/CEQA environmental document will provide specific on-the-ground implementation measures to protect meadow habitat and increase vegetative materials to stabilize banks. Replanting native vegetation such as willows, will increase stored carbon and contribute to improved air quality.

(f) Assist the Regional economy through the operation of the SNCs program

The planned actions and project will help to maintain and improve the economy of the Region. Conducting needs assessments, planning, and performing on-the-ground implementation projects provides a sustainable economic investment that facilitates the long-term health and well-being of the working landscape. Investing in the working landscape provides a positive economic return and direct benefit that will employ personnel for the planning efforts. The Forest Service will contribute additional project funds and resources as a result of the SNC investment. The performance measures of Resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada and Number and Type of Jobs Created will be used to quantify benefits. The Forest Service will keep track of invoices for consultant/contractor work, staff payrolls and dates and hours worked. They will identify and track types of jobs directly created by the SNC project and classify them into the appropriate occupational category and will estimate the value of any major in-kind contribution associated with the project.

(g) Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

Long Meadow is unique in its character and natural setting. It sits just below Long Meadow Giant Sequoia Grove a popular destination for many overseas tourists and local residents who come to view the largest trees on earth. The Meadow provides value as a working landscape through its inclusion as part of an active grazing allotment, and also has importance to local Native American tribes as a historic use area. During the pre-planning and environmental review to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA environmental document, the Forest Service will conduct public scoping to identify opportunities and issues to enhance public use and enjoyment of the Long Meadow area. Part of this process will include public meetings, informal discussions, and working collaboratively to engage the public and increase public support for restoration efforts that enhance and protect the area. With the environmental review complete, project implementation will arrest the continued degradation of the meadow. Significant natural resources will be protected from future loss (meadow habitat, water quality, archaeological attributes) and economic benefits will be realized. The Forest Service will track changes in knowledge or behavior through the public participation process. This process will assist the forest in assessing behaviors, knowledge, and attitudes prior to project implementation. Based on this analysis, the forest will be able to compare post-project changes to

determine if there is increased public awareness of the project and improved appreciation for forest stewardship. The Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments will help the Forest Service increase support and understanding of management options to enhance public use and enjoyment.

**D. Cooperation and Community Support**

1. Letters of support and commitments from project partners is included in this grant. These include letters from the following individuals or agencies: WildPlaces Ecological Restoration and Education; J. Less Guthrie, rancher and term grazing permit holder; and Giant Sequoia National Monument Association. .
2. This project is important to the geographic location to reduce ecosystem disturbances and stabilize biological processes for the future. Long Meadow is within the view shed of two existing campgrounds and a day use site adjacent to the grove and will greatly enhance the recreation experience of visitors including overseas tourists and local residents. The meadow provides value as a working landscape through its inclusion as part of an active grazing allotment, and also its importance to local Native American tribes as a historic use area.
3. The Forest Service has consulted and discussed this project with several key stakeholders including WildPlaces Ecological Restoration and Education (a non-profit volunteer organization) and Giant Sequoia National Monument Association as well as local rancher and Long Meadow permittee J. Less Guthrie.
  - (a) During the public participation process, the Forest Service will consult and seek additional collaboration with individuals, organizations, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders. Public scoping will be conducted to ensure that any issues or concerns are addressed. Methods to solicit participation will be public meetings, utilizing the Forest website, scoping letters, and information discussions. Part of the planning process will include obtaining required regulatory permits from Federal and State governments.
  - (b) The Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument maintain numerous and diverse partnerships for the mutual benefit of the forest and its partners. During public scoping, stakeholders will be involved in providing issues and concerns regarding the proposed project and feedback on the restoration work. A contract hydrologic engineer will design a site plan for implementation. During the implementation phase a variety of volunteers, individuals, youth groups and organizations will be involved in stream surveys and planting native vegetation.
4. The applicant is not aware of any potential opposition to the proposed project.
5. The pre-planning and environmental analysis is compatible with direction in the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Sierra

Nevada Forest Plan Amendment addressing protection for aquatic, riparian and meadow ecosystems. These Plans recommended a number of tasks for watershed management protection. The Presidential Proclamation establishing the Giant Sequoia National Monument directed the Forest Service to ensure protection for the numerous meadows and streams that provide an interconnected web of habitats and to mitigate impacts to restore natural forest resilience.

6. Through the public participation process, the Forest Service will utilize various communication techniques to promote understanding and awareness of the project. Part of the public notification process will include press releases issued to local and regional media announcing public meetings, scoping letters mailed to interested stakeholders including elected and agency officials, non-governmental and business partners, forest users, environmental groups and other interested parties, and using the Forest website as a communication tool to distribute information.

#### **E. Project Management**

1. The fiscal partners include in-kind contributions from Forest Service resource specialists and staff administrators to provide technical expertise and support to the Interdisciplinary Team involved in the environmental analysis and planning. They will provide input to the resource specialist reports, participate during the public participation process and assist with responding to public issues and concerns. They will facilitate distribution of press releases and utilization of the Forest website.
2. The following Forest Service personnel will comprise the Interdisciplinary Team to complete the environmental analysis and have the demonstrated ability, education and experience required to implement the proposed project.

#### **Planning**

Jessica Ilse, District Planner, Education: B.S. Ecology from University of California Santa Cruz; Experience: Jessica has 7 years experience with the Forest Service including 1 year as a District Planner on Sequoia National Forest, and 6 years as a Wildlife Biologist with El Dorado National Forest.

#### **Hydrology**

Joshua Courter, District Hydrologist; Education: B.S. Geology, California State University, Bakersfield; Research and Educational Center for River Studies; Wildland Hydrology, Inc. Experience: Joshua has been the district hydrologist for 5 years on the Sequoia National Forest and Student Conservation Employment Placement (SCEP) hydrologist for 5 years.



**Archaeology**

Linn Gassaway, Cultural Resources, Tribal and Native American Interests; Education: M.A. Anthropology, San Francisco State University; B.A. Anthropology University of California, Berkeley. Experience: Linn is currently the Giant Sequoia National Monument archaeologist and North Zone Archaeologist for Sequoia National Forest covering Hume Lake and Western Divide Ranger Districts. She has 8 years working for the Forest Service on four forests in 4 regions. She has 7 years with the National Park Service, 1 year as an archaeologist with the Texas National Guard, and 2 years as an archaeologist for private cultural resources management companies.

**Wildlife and Fisheries Biology**

Robin Galloway, District Wildlife/Fisheries Biologist; Education: B.S. Biology, University of California, Bakersfield, 1986. Experience: Robin has 25 years experience as a biologist. This includes 22 years with the Forest Service as a District Biologist, 2 years with California Department of Fish and Game as part of the Little Kern Golden Trout Recovery Project, and 1 year with a private consulting firm, ENTRIX.

**Botany**

Fletcher Linton, Forest Botanist; Education: M.S. Soil Science, emphasis in forest soil ecology, Washington State University, Pullman, 1996; B.S. Ecology and Systematic Biology with a concentration in plant systematic, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 1990; Experience: Fletcher is currently the Forest Botanist for the Sequoia National Forest. He has experience as a botanist, soil scientist, and ecologist for Bryce Canyon National Park and other National Forests in Washington, Colorado, and California.

**Range and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

Joe Loehner, Biologist/Range Specialist and GIS technician; Education: B.S. Biology, California State University, Bakersfield. Experience: Joe has 9 years experience with the Forest Service on Sequoia National Forest as the acting range conservationist, botanist, and GIS specialist.

## **7. Evaluation Criteria**

### **A. Project Quality and Readiness**

#### **1. General Description**

The proposed project will provide for pre-project planning and environmental review necessary to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA document to allow for implementation of the Long Meadow Restoration Project. The outcome would be a fully supported decision specifying future on-the-ground implementation measures to restore ecosystem conditions, water quality, and the protection of cultural resources.

Long Meadow is unique in its character and natural setting. It sits just below Long Meadow Giant Sequoia Grove a popular destination for many overseas tourists and local residents, who come to view the largest trees on earth. Long Meadow is within the view shed of two existing campgrounds and a day use site adjacent to the grove and greatly enhances the recreational experience for visitors. The meadow provides value as a working landscape through its inclusion as part of an active grazing allotment, and also has importance to local Native American tribes as a historic use area. The long term stability of the meadow is being threatened by a large headcut which has become established at the bottom of the meadow. Left in its current condition, the headcut will continue to expand, promoting significant losses of meadow vegetation and soil, reductions in water quality, and sedimentation of downstream environments. These conditions will impact the natural hydrology of the meadow over time, and lead to a lowering of the water table and meadow drying. Unique cultural attributes will be impacted through losses in soil that may expose and transport them off site under high spring flows.

Long Meadow is located in the Long Meadow Creek sub-watershed which drains to the Middle Kern River Watershed. This Middle Kern River Watershed has experienced several devastating fires (McNally Fire and the recent Bull Fire) which have worked to decrease water quality and valuable in-stream conditions. Arresting additional sources of sediment delivery such as those contributed by Long Meadow is considered desirable.

The environmental review will lead to restoration project implementation and the following deliverables: A low gradient step pool system will be established from the bottom of the meadow up to the headcut. These actions will reduce the steepened flow gradient created by the headcut that currently promotes undercutting of the meadow, bank slumping, and soil transport. After the creation of the step pool system, exposed areas will be resloped to match the natural contours and planted with native vegetation such as willows to further stabilize banks.

This grant will provide salary costs of a project manager to complete the environmental analysis and subsequent joint NEPA/CEQA document; fund salary costs to complete remaining field surveys and project reports including the

Archaeological Reconnaissance Report (ARR), Biological Evaluation/ Assessment (BE/BA), Hydrological and Botanical Reports; fund costs of a contracted Hydrologic Engineer to complete a site design plan; fund costs to prepare six-month and final progress report; fund costs to coordinate with SNC to complete appropriate CEQA requirements; and fund costs to obtain regulatory permits from Army Corps of Engineers – Section 404 Permit, California State Water Quality Board - Section 401 Permit and Streambed and Lakebed Alteration Agreement (if required) from California Department of Fish and Game.

Implementation of the Long Meadow Restoration Project is consistent with the goals and objectives of the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan as amended. The project will work to complement another proposal submitted to SNC under Category 1 application (this grant cycle) which would improve interpretation resources along the “Trail of 100 Giants” loop trail and improve trail conditions to reduce erosion.

Related activities that have been completed to date supportive of any future analysis include: one set of aquatic field surveys for sensitive species (no occurrences detected), a partial archaeological survey, and field monitoring surveys of five study sites at Long Meadow completed by the District Hydrologist from 2005 through 2008. The purpose of the Hydrologist’s study was to determine the rate of headcut migration and the amount of soil loss contributed by the headcut. This work appropriately documents and supports the need to complete meadow restoration work at this time. Given the location of the headcut and natural meadow slope, further upslope migration will occur. With the environmental review complete, project implementation will arrest the continued degradation of the meadow. Significant natural resources will be protected from future loss (meadow habitat, water quality, archeological attributes) and economic benefits will be realized by addressing the problem early.

## 2. Workplan and Schedule

(a) Specific tasks and schedule needed to complete the project include:

- Initiate joint NEPA/CEQA environmental analysis and issue Project Initiation letter (PIL); submit to SNC; (May 2011)
- Prepare engineering site design, conduct field surveys, and obtain regulatory permits: Army Corps of Engineers Section 404 Permit, Water Quality Waiver from CA State Water Quality Board, and Streambed and Lakebed Alteration Agreement (if required) from CA Department of Fish and Game; (May-June 2011)
- Begin internal and interagency project scoping. Distribute PIL to Forest Service resource specialists (hydrology, soils, archaeology, wildlife biology, botany, etc.); (June-July 2011)
- Based on identified purpose and need, Forest Service develops proposed action and prepares scoping letter/map; schedule public meetings; issue

- press release; post on Sequoia NF website; conduct public meetings, and possible field trip; (July-August 2011)
- Analyze results of public scoping and identify issues and concerns. Develop alternatives; (August-September 2011)
  - Complete specialists reports including: Biological Evaluation/Assessment (BE/BA) Report, Archaeological Reconnaissance (ARR) Report, Vegetation and Hydrology Reports; (September-October 2011)
  - Prepare joint CEQA/NEPA preliminary environmental document; send to public for appropriate public comment period. (October–December 2011)
  - Analyze public comments received; (December 2011)
  - Prepare and issue appropriate final environmental and decision documents; i.e., Decision Notice (DN) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or Record of Decision (ROD); (January-February 2012)
  - Complete six-month progress report and submit to SNC (October 2011)
  - Complete six-month progress report and submit to SNC (April 2012)
  - Complete Final report to SNC (October 2012)

(b) Factors affecting the project timeline will be related to results of public scoping which has the potential to alter the purpose and need of the project. To address this, the Forest Service will work collaboratively with the public and interagency partners during the public participation process. If needed, they will conduct a field trip to the project site to increase awareness of project goals and outcomes, especially for those unfamiliar with the area. Performance measures will also be used to track progress and assist the Forest in implementing the project in a timely manner.

### 3. Budget

- (a) Total in-kind services realized or expected is \$25,529. This includes \$13,524 previously committed funds for specialist surveys and GIS work. This includes one set of aquatic field surveys for sensitive species, a partial archaeological survey, and field monitoring surveys of five study sites at Long Meadow completed by the District Hydrologist from 2005 through 2008. The Forest Service will provide an additional in-kind contributions of \$9,205 for associate staff for technical expertise and administrative/funding for the environmental review and public scoping process. WildPlaces has committed to assist the Forest with in-kind donations of labor for the completion of further meadow surveys in 2011 (estimated dollar amount \$2,800). This would include the use of two individuals for a week time period to aid with data collection with the District Hydrologist in the pre-planning phase. WildPlaces has also committed to provide staff and volunteers for the on-the-ground implementation of the project. They will utilize a volunteer work force to maintain the District nursery, collect and root appropriate native plants, and complete the re-vegetation phase of the project.

Requested funding for the project includes: associate staff time to complete environmental planning (project manager); salary costs of resource specialists to complete remaining field surveys and project reports; fund costs to obtain regulatory permits; fund engineering contractor costs for a site design plan; fund costs to coordinate with SNC on CEQA; and fund costs to prepare a six-month and final progress report. Total requested funding is \$72,320. No other state, federal, or local funding has been received for the project.

- (b) The project is not dependent on other funding sources at this time. Requested funding from SNC will be sufficient to complete the necessary pre-planning and environmental review.
- (c) The applicant has not received other state generated funds.
- (d) The Long Meadow Project is similar to the Last Chance Meadow Restoration Project completed in 1999. NEPA environmental analysis was completed at a cost of approximately \$50,000; the Long Meadow project costs are calculated at \$72,320. Existing data for Long Meadow project has been provided by a Forest Service hydrology survey crew. Collected data will provide information needed for designing the restoration work. The designs will prevent further meadow habitat loss and reduce future costs. Future costs would increase if restoration work is not completed. The amount of erosion occurring on-site would require more fill, rock, and structures to maintain bank stability.

#### 4. Status of agreements and land tenure

(a) Agreement letters of support and commitments from project partners is included in this grant application. These include letters from the following individuals and agencies:

- 1) WildPlaces Ecological Restoration and Education
- 2) J. Less Guthrie, rancher and term grazing permit holder
- 3) Giant Sequoia National Monument Association

(b) Land Tenure: the proposed project will be conducted entirely on national forest system lands under management of the Sequoia National Forest (grant applicant).

#### **B. Proposition 84 Land and Water Benefits**

- 1. The grant provides pre-project planning and environmental review to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA environmental document for the long term restoration work at Long Meadow. Completion of these regulatory documents will allow implementation to move forward in a more timely fashion than if depending on agency funding. On-the-ground project implementation will contribute to the long term protection of the Long Meadow Creek sub-watershed and larger Middle Kern River Watershed. Collectively the above actions meet Proposition 84

requirements to protect and restore water sources and their associated lands. The project addresses existing and potential threats to water and watersheds and other natural resources. The number of collaboratively developed plans/reports Performance Measure (PM) will result in a joint CEQA/NEPA environmental document, a specific project goal and deliverable. Specialist reports will support understanding of ecosystem conditions, management options, and provide valuable habitat/archaeological surveys. The percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts PM resulting in project implementation will be 100% which will meet the desired outcome. Through the public participation process, the Forest Service will increase awareness of watershed protection, increase understanding of restoration work, and ultimately track measureable changes in knowledge. Through the environmental review, the Forest Service will measure number of people reached through information-sharing and education efforts during the public participation process. Formal and informal communication techniques will include meetings, social networking, phone, and mail contact. The number of people will be tracked through sign-in sheets at meetings, mailing lists, and the forest web site and their input incorporated during the plan development. The dollar value of resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada will be from Forest Service in-kind contributions and those provided by WildPlaces.. The number and type of jobs created will include hiring an engineering contractor to complete a site design plan for the restoration work. The number of new, improved, or preserved economic activities will include improved economic investment of watershed values and cultural resources, and benefit for the associated land, water, and other natural resources.

2. The future implementation of the Long Meadow Restoration Project will add to the sustainability of the watershed and the land uses that occur within it. Through project implementation a low gradient step pool system will be established from the bottom of the meadow up to the headcut. These actions will reduce the steepened gradient created by the headcut that currently promotes undercutting of the meadow, bank slumping, and soil transport. With the creation of the step pool system, the meadow will be stabilized with negative influences removed that contribute to decreased water quality and impacts to the overall watershed. Through project implementation, long term meadow stability and resiliency will be improved providing for its longevity in the future. Keeping the meadow in a healthy condition will maintain its scenic value promoting its continued use as a popular recreation destination, and as part of a working landscape for the permittee. Both provide benefits to the local economy. The Western Divide Ranger District has identified a future project to expand the interpretive signing at the existing Trail of 100 Giants located west of Long Meadow. This project is not expected to have any impacts on Long Meadow Restoration project area. The meadow is part of an active grazing allotment and receives only sporadic use by the permittee as a gathering area, or for horse stock, at the end of the season. Measures will continue to be implemented to protect the restoration site until full recovery has occurred.

3. Meadows throughout the Sierra Nevada have experienced important climate changes in vegetation and hydrology since the 1850s. Because of the connection between vegetation and groundwater systems, the lowering of the water table, resulting from changes in hydrologic patterns and processes, can typically result in a shift from native wet meadow vegetation to more xeric vegetation. Left in its current condition, the headcut in Long Meadow will continue to expand, promoting significant losses of meadow vegetation and soil. It will impact the natural hydrology of the meadow over time, and lead to a lowering of the water table and meadow drying. This project will reduce sedimentation and soil transport to downstream reaches and sustain groundwater storage within the meadow environment. It will retain and enhance carbon sequestration by retaining soils on site. Replanting native vegetation and willows along the stream bank will provide for surface and bank stabilization, which decreases sediment supply and increases stream channel stability.

### **C. SNC Program Goals**

- (a) Provide increased opportunities for tourism and recreation

The public participation process will increase awareness of Long Meadow and Long Meadow Giant Sequoia Grove, thus increasing opportunities for tourism and recreation. Participation will include diverse outreach to the public, Sierra Nevada residents, youth (under 18 years of age), conservation groups/individuals, permittees, landowners, resource professionals, elected officials, and other interested government agencies and organizations. The Number and Diversity of People Reached PM will be tracked during the public scoping phase through public meetings, social networking, emails, phone and person to person contacts. The Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessment PM will support understanding of conditions, improve collaboration with local communities, and help promote tourist opportunities within the Giant Sequoia National Monument. With the environmental review complete, project implementation will keep the meadow in a healthy condition, maintain its scenic value and promote its continued use as a popular recreation destination.

- (b) Protect, conserve, and restore the Region's physical, cultural, archaeological, historical, and living resources.

The project will result in direct benefits to protect valuable meadow habitat and water quality, restore the long term hydrological condition, and protect associated cultural and recreation values. The Forest Service will quantify benefits by tracking the percent of pre-project and planning efforts PM resulting in project implementation through the workplan and scheduled timeline that identifies specific tasks and deliverables to complete the project. The Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments PM will help the Forest Service plan for the restoration implementation phase, provide management options, and gain public support and understanding for the project. Tangible benefits will include written documents

developed by a broad public and private coalition; they will be provided to the stakeholders for public review and comment, and they will be available to the public when complete.

(c) Aid in the preservation of working landscapes

Changes in and loss of habitat can damage the health of our forests, impact water quality and affect cultural attributes that may be impacted through losses in soil that may expose and transport them off site. Increasing “above-the-dam,” basin-wide natural water storage systems such as the intended meadow restoration project and associated re-vegetation will aid in the preservation of the working landscape. The project will promote actions to improve natural water storage and recharge capacities. The project will support efforts and provide tangible benefits to reduce impacts of climate change (such as carbon sequestration) by implementing measures to stabilize and sustain carbon producing soils and vegetation. Significant natural resources will be protected from future loss (meadow habitat, water quality, archaeological attributes) and improved economic benefits will be realized by addressing the problem early.

(d) Reduce the risk of natural disasters

Promoting good land management practices contribute to overall forest health and resiliency. This project will improve and sustain the long term stability of Long Meadow and its natural water storage systems thereby reducing the risk and impacts of a natural disaster such as a catastrophic wildfire or flooding brought on by a heavy snowpack. This project will protect the natural hydrology of the meadow and prevent losses in soil that may expose and transport them off site under unusually high spring flows. A warming climate such as decreased snowpack, larger and more severe catastrophic wildfires and changes in and loss of habitat can damage the health and sustainability of the forest and watershed values.

(e) Protect and improve water and air quality

This project will provide the pre-planning and environmental review, including associated hydrologic surveys and specialist reports, to implement future restoration work to protect and improve water quality. Long term stability of the meadow is being threatened by a large headcut which has become established at the bottom of the meadow. Left in its current condition, the headcut will continue to expand, promoting significant reductions in water quality, losses of meadow vegetation and soil, and sedimentation of downstream environments. By establishing a low gradient step pool system from the bottom of the meadow up to the headcut, these actions will reduce the steepened flow gradient created by the headcut that currently promotes reductions in water quality and undercutting of the meadow. These actions will also stabilize and secure the bank, and protect and improve water quality.



An essential element in successfully storing carbon in the Sierra Nevada region is well-managed, sustainable forests. This project will contribute to help achieve the State's greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and reduce warming impacts by identifying actions during the completion of an environmental review. The joint NEPA/CEQA environmental document will provide specific on-the-ground implementation measures to protect meadow habitat and increase vegetative materials to stabilize banks. Replanting native vegetation such as willows, will increase stored carbon and contribute to improved air quality.

(f) Assist the Regional economy through the operation of the SNCs program

The planned actions and project will help to maintain and improve the economy of the Region. Conducting needs assessments, planning, and performing on-the-ground implementation projects provides a sustainable economic investment that facilitates the long-term health and well-being of the working landscape. Investing in the working landscape provides a positive economic return and direct benefit that will employ personnel for the planning efforts. The Forest Service will contribute additional project funds and resources as a result of the SNC investment. The performance measures of Resources leveraged for the Sierra Nevada and Number and Type of Jobs Created will be used to quantify benefits. The Forest Service will keep track of invoices for consultant/contractor work, staff payrolls and dates and hours worked. They will identify and track types of jobs directly created by the SNC project and classify them into the appropriate occupational category and will estimate the value of any major in-kind contribution associated with the project.

(g) Undertake efforts to enhance public use and enjoyment of lands owned by the public.

Long Meadow is unique in its character and natural setting. It sits just below Long Meadow Giant Sequoia Grove a popular destination for many overseas tourists and local residents who come to view the largest trees on earth. The Meadow provides value as a working landscape through its inclusion as part of an active grazing allotment, and also has importance to local Native American tribes as a historic use area. During the pre-planning and environmental review to prepare a joint NEPA/CEQA environmental document, the Forest Service will conduct public scoping to identify opportunities and issues to enhance public use and enjoyment of the Long Meadow area. Part of this process will include public meetings, informal discussions, and working collaboratively to engage the public and increase public support for restoration efforts that enhance and protect the area. With the environmental review complete, project implementation will arrest the continued degradation of the meadow. Significant natural resources will be protected from future loss (meadow habitat, water quality, archaeological attributes) and economic benefits will be realized. The Forest Service will track changes in knowledge or behavior through the public participation process. This process will assist the forest in assessing behaviors, knowledge, and attitudes prior to project implementation. Based on this analysis, the forest will be able to compare post-project changes to

determine if there is increased public awareness of the project and improved appreciation for forest stewardship. The Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments will help the Forest Service increase support and understanding of management options to enhance public use and enjoyment.

**D. Cooperation and Community Support**

1. Letters of support and commitments from project partners is included in this grant. These include letters from the following individuals or agencies: WildPlaces Ecological Restoration and Education; J. Less Guthrie, rancher and term grazing permit holder; and Giant Sequoia National Monument Association. .
2. This project is important to the geographic location to reduce ecosystem disturbances and stabilize biological processes for the future. Long Meadow is within the view shed of two existing campgrounds and a day use site adjacent to the grove and will greatly enhance the recreation experience of visitors including overseas tourists and local residents. The meadow provides value as a working landscape through its inclusion as part of an active grazing allotment, and also its importance to local Native American tribes as a historic use area.
3. The Forest Service has consulted and discussed this project with several key stakeholders including WildPlaces Ecological Restoration and Education (a non-profit volunteer organization) and Giant Sequoia National Monument Association as well as local rancher and Long Meadow permittee J. Less Guthrie.
  - (a) During the public participation process, the Forest Service will consult and seek additional collaboration with individuals, organizations, state and federal agencies, and other stakeholders. Public scoping will be conducted to ensure that any issues or concerns are addressed. Methods to solicit participation will be public meetings, utilizing the Forest website, scoping letters, and information discussions. Part of the planning process will include obtaining required regulatory permits from Federal and State governments.
  - (b) The Sequoia National Forest and Giant Sequoia National Monument maintain numerous and diverse partnerships for the mutual benefit of the forest and its partners. During public scoping, stakeholders will be involved in providing issues and concerns regarding the proposed project and feedback on the restoration work. A contract hydrologic engineer will design a site plan for implementation. During the implementation phase a variety of volunteers, individuals, youth groups and organizations will be involved in stream surveys and planting native vegetation.
4. The applicant is not aware of any potential opposition to the proposed project.
5. The pre-planning and environmental analysis is compatible with direction in the Sequoia National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan and Sierra

Nevada Forest Plan Amendment addressing protection for aquatic, riparian and meadow ecosystems. These Plans recommended a number of tasks for watershed management protection. The Presidential Proclamation establishing the Giant Sequoia National Monument directed the Forest Service to ensure protection for the numerous meadows and streams that provide an interconnected web of habitats and to mitigate impacts to restore natural forest resilience.

6. Through the public participation process, the Forest Service will utilize various communication techniques to promote understanding and awareness of the project. Part of the public notification process will include press releases issued to local and regional media announcing public meetings, scoping letters mailed to interested stakeholders including elected and agency officials, non-governmental and business partners, forest users, environmental groups and other interested parties, and using the Forest website as a communication tool to distribute information.

#### **E. Project Management**

1. The fiscal partners include in-kind contributions from Forest Service resource specialists and staff administrators to provide technical expertise and support to the Interdisciplinary Team involved in the environmental analysis and planning. They will provide input to the resource specialist reports, participate during the public participation process and assist with responding to public issues and concerns. They will facilitate distribution of press releases and utilization of the Forest website.
2. The following Forest Service personnel will comprise the Interdisciplinary Team to complete the environmental analysis and have the demonstrated ability, education and experience required to implement the proposed project.

#### **Planning**

Jessica Ilse, District Planner, Education: B.S. Ecology from University of California Santa Cruz; Experience: Jessica has 7 years experience with the Forest Service including 1 year as a District Planner on Sequoia National Forest, and 6 years as a Wildlife Biologist with El Dorado National Forest.

#### **Hydrology**

Joshua Courter, District Hydrologist; Education: B.S. Geology, California State University, Bakersfield; Research and Educational Center for River Studies; Wildland Hydrology, Inc. Experience: Joshua has been the district hydrologist for 5 years on the Sequoia National Forest and Student Conservation Employment Placement (SCEP) hydrologist for 5 years.

**Archaeology**

Linn Gassaway, Cultural Resources, Tribal and Native American Interests; Education: M.A. Anthropology, San Francisco State University; B.A. Anthropology University of California, Berkeley. Experience: Linn is currently the Giant Sequoia National Monument archaeologist and North Zone Archaeologist for Sequoia National Forest covering Hume Lake and Western Divide Ranger Districts. She has 8 years working for the Forest Service on four forests in 4 regions. She has 7 years with the National Park Service, 1 year as an archaeologist with the Texas National Guard, and 2 years as an archaeologist for private cultural resources management companies.

**Wildlife and Fisheries Biology**

Robin Galloway, District Wildlife/Fisheries Biologist; Education: B.S. Biology, University of California, Bakersfield, 1986. Experience: Robin has 25 years experience as a biologist. This includes 22 years with the Forest Service as a District Biologist, 2 years with California Department of Fish and Game as part of the Little Kern Golden Trout Recovery Project, and 1 year with a private consulting firm, ENTRIX.

**Botany**

Fletcher Linton, Forest Botanist; Education: M.S. Soil Science, emphasis in forest soil ecology, Washington State University, Pullman, 1996; B.S. Ecology and Systematic Biology with a concentration in plant systematic, Cal Poly, San Luis Obispo, 1990; Experience: Fletcher is currently the Forest Botanist for the Sequoia National Forest. He has experience as a botanist, soil scientist, and ecologist for Bryce Canyon National Park and other National Forests in Washington, Colorado, and California.

**Range and Geographic Information Systems (GIS)**

Joe Loehner, Biologist/Range Specialist and GIS technician; Education: B.S. Biology, California State University, Bakersfield. Experience: Joe has 9 years experience with the Forest Service on Sequoia National Forest as the acting range conservationist, botanist, and GIS specialist.

Detailed Budget Form					
State of California - Sierra Nevada Conservancy					
<b>APPLICANT NAME:</b> USDA Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest, Western Divide Ranger District					
<b>SNC REF #:</b>					
<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b> Long Meadow Restoration Project					
<b>PROJECT TYPE (choose one):</b>					
<input type="checkbox"/> ACQUISITION <input type="checkbox"/> SITE IMPROVEMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RESTORATION <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRE PROJECT PLANNING					
SECTION ONE DIRECT COSTS	QTY	UNIT* (Days)	UNIT COST per Day	SUBTOTAL	SNC Grant Request
Staff/Personnel Expense - Project Related Wages/Benefits					
Senior Hydrologist	1	10	\$410.00	\$4,100.00	\$4,100.00
Hydrologist	1	30	\$260.00	\$7,800.00	\$7,800.00
Biologist	1	15	\$392.00	\$5,880.00	\$5,880.00
Botanist / Range	1	20	\$256.00	\$5,120.00	\$5,120.00
Archeologist	1	20	\$317.00	\$6,340.00	\$6,340.00
Archeologist Survey Crew	1	20	\$600.00	\$12,000.00	\$12,000.00
Planner	1	40	\$307.00	\$12,280.00	\$12,280.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$53,520.00</b>	<b>\$53,520.00</b>
Contracts/Consultants - Project Related					
TEAMS Hydro-Engineer	1	10	\$500.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$5,000.00</b>	<b>\$5,000.00</b>
Fees - Appraisal/Permits/CEQA/Easement					
401/404 Permit from ACE	1	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00
CEQA Coordination	1	1	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00	\$2,500.00
CA Water Quality Waiver	1	1	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
				\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$7,500.00</b>	<b>\$7,500.00</b>
<b>DIRECT COSTS SUBTOTAL:</b>				<b>\$66,020.00</b>	<b>\$66,020.00</b>
SECTION TWO INDIRECT COSTS	QTY	UNIT* (Days)	UNIT COST per Day	SUBTOTAL	SNC Grant Request
Printed Materials - Project related Publications/Communications/Public Outreach					
Public Notifications	1	1	\$100.00	\$100.00	\$100.00
<b>TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$100.00</b>	<b>\$100.00</b>
Performance Measure reporting					
Performance Measure Report	1	5	\$200.00	\$1,000.00	\$1,000.00
<b>OTHER TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$1,000.00</b>	<b>\$1,000.00</b>
<b>MAINTENANCE SUBTOTAL:</b>				<b>\$1,100.00</b>	<b>\$1,100.00</b>
<b>PROJECT TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$67,120.00</b>	<b>\$67,120.00</b>

**SECTION THREE****Administrative Costs (Description - Not to exceed 15% of Project Total):**

Administration/Budget & Accounting	1	20	\$260.00	\$5,200.00	\$5,200.00
<b>ADMINISTRATIVE TOTAL:</b>				<b>\$5,200.00</b>	<b>\$5,200.00</b>
<b>SNC TOTAL GRANT REQUEST:</b>				<b>\$72,320.00</b>	<b>\$72,320.00</b>

\*Unit: Enter the appropriate unit of measure (e.g., hours = hrs., months = mos., each = ea., feet = ft., miles = mi., miscellaneous = misc., package = pkg.)

**Project Budget Details****State of California - Sierra Nevada Conservancy**

**APPLICANT NAME:** USDA Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest, Western Divide Ranger District

**SNC REF #:**

**PROJECT TITLE** Long Meadow Restoration Project

**PROJECT TYPE (choose one):**

☐ ACQUISITION ☐ SITE IMPROVEMENT ☐ RESTORATION ☒ PRE PROJECT PLANNING

<b>SECTION FOUR OTHER PROJECT CONTRIBUTIONS</b>	<b>QTY</b>	<b>UNIT* (Days)</b>	<b>UNIT COST per Day</b>	<b>Contribution</b>	<b>Status**</b>
Public Scoping and Participation	1	5	\$360.00	\$1,800.00	Pending
Senior Hydrologist	1	5	\$410.00	\$2,050.00	Received
Hydrologist	1	10	\$260.00	\$2,600.00	Received
Stream Survey Crew	1	1	\$5,000.00	\$5,000.00	Received
Biologist	1	5	\$392.00	\$1,960.00	Received
GIS Specialist	1	5	\$256.00	\$1,280.00	Received
Archaeologist	1	2	\$317.00	\$634.00	Received
District Public Affairs	1	5	\$352.00	\$1,760.00	Pending
Assistant Recreation Officer	1	5	\$360.00	\$1,800.00	Pending
Vehicles	3	5	\$100.00	\$1,500.00	Pending
Volunteers: WildPlaces	2	7	\$200.00	\$2,800.00	Pending
Forest Website (document release)	1	5	\$469.00	\$2,345.00	Pending
<b>Total Other Contributions:</b>				<b>\$25,529.00</b>	

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## **9. Performance Measures for Long Meadow Restoration Project**

The following Performance Measures (PMs) have been identified for this project. The first four are quantitative measures required of all applicants; the last three are project-specific PMs the Forest Service has identified for this project that will help describe project outcomes in a measurable way. These measures will be used to track progress toward projected goals and desired outcomes. They will provide a means of reliably measuring, tracking, and reporting the outcomes and effectiveness of the project and how it contributes to the mission of Sierra Nevada Conservancy (SNC) and meets the requirements and goals of Proposition 84 for the protection and restoration of rivers, lakes and streams, their watersheds and associated land, water, and other natural resources.

### **Number and Diversity of People Reached**

The purpose of this PM is to measure progress of information sharing and inclusiveness of other project efforts during the environmental review and plan development. The number and diversity of people reached will be collected during the public participation process. The Forest Service will use sign-in sheets to count numbers of people attending public meetings and collaborative activities related to the project. The Forest website will be used to collect data on use of numbers of publications distributed and estimate numbers of people reached with written material. During the public scoping period for the environmental assessment, the Forest Service will use the media, social media outlets, mailings lists, front desk personnel, and the forest website to distribute press releases, scoping letters, updates, maps and other information materials regarding the progress of the project. The mailing lists will show total number of people reached, organized by type of participants and agency/organization identification. Public meeting sign-in sheets and any planned field trips will provide number and types of participants which will be compiled into a table or spreadsheet for reporting purposes.

### **Resources Leveraged for the Sierra Nevada**

The purpose of this PM is to measure the additional resources generated as a result of SNC investment. Major in-kind contributions will be provided by Forest Service personnel that contribute their costs to the project. In order to complete the environmental review and analysis, resource specialists and associate staff will provide technical expertise to assist with the public participation process, conduct stream surveys, archeological surveys, and assist with other technical reports. Forest public affairs staff will provide in-kind funding during the environmental analysis associated with news releases, Forest website management, and conducting public scoping meetings. The District Ranger will contribute salary costs to lead public meetings, stakeholder discussions, and coordination with SNC.

## **Number and Type of Jobs Created**

The purpose of this PM is to measure economic benefits to the Sierra Nevada Region by tracking the full-time equivalent jobs created by this proposed project created by SNC-funds. In the occupational group of Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, project funds will pay for one-full time program manager (Interdisciplinary Team Leader/Planner) to complete the joint NEPA/CEQA environmental document, collaborative planning efforts, and to conduct the public participation process. Surveys needed prior to and after project implementation will create jobs for students and/or seasonal employees. In addition, funds will pay for a contracted hydrologic engineer to develop a site design plan for implementing the restoration work.

## **Number and Value of New, Improved, or Preserved Economic Activities**

The PM relates to SNC's goals to develop tourism and recreational opportunities, aid in the preservation of working landscapes, and assist the regional economy. For this PM, new and improved products will include development of a joint CEQA/NEPA environmental document which will analyze environmental effects on the working landscape and identify a preferred alternative to implement future restoration work. Other products will include resource specialist reports that will analyze the natural resource environment.

Improving an acre of meadow habitat improves and preserves the multi-use function Long Meadow provides to both wildlife and people. It improves and reconnects lost meadow habitat for aquatic species; fish passage will be restored potentially increasing recreational fishing opportunities; improves quantity of vegetation available for livestock; and provides newly improved and restored habitat for wildlife. With these improvements on the meadow, recreationalists, campers, bird watchers, and other groups of people are expected to use the nearby campground more often.

## **Number of Collaboratively Developed Plans and Assessments**

The purpose of this PM is to measure the extent of collaboration within local communities and among stakeholders. During the environmental review, resource specialist reports will be generated to support understanding of conditions related to the natural environment. These reports will include an Archaeological Reconnaissance Report, Biological Evaluation, and Request for Project Input reports from other specialists in hydrology, soils, botany, recreation, and air quality and noise analysis. There will be a joint NEPA/CEQA environmental document prepared by the Forest Service in collaboration with SNC. During the public participation process, public input will be collaboratively integrated into the development of a draft environmental document which will be provided to stakeholders or the public for review and comment and a Final environmental document will be available to the public when complete. A site design plan will be produced collaboratively with a contracted hydrologic engineer and the Forest Service for implementing the restoration project.

## **Percent of Pre-project and Planning Efforts Resulting in Project Implementation**

The purpose of this PM is to provide a measure of progress in moving SNC-funded projects from initial stages of collaboration and planning into action. The activities expected to be implemented after completion of pre-project and planning efforts are to implement the Long Meadow Restoration Project. The Forest Service has identified detailed project deliverables and a timeline for accomplishing each item. These specific tasks involve initial environmental review in coordination with SNC, conducting internal and external scoping with agency resource specialists and the public to identify any issues and/or concerns. Public scoping comments will be analyzed. From this input, alternatives will be developed and a preferred alternative identified. Specific reports and surveys will be completed by a scheduled date and incorporated into the environmental analysis. A joint CEQA/NEPA environmental document in coordination with SNC will be prepared. Each of these steps has an identified timeline for completion. The work plan and timeline will track progress for each step of the pre-project and planning efforts.

## **Measurable Changes in Knowledge or Behavior**

The purpose of this PM is to track the effects of educational and interpretive efforts to improve appreciation for and stewardship of Sierra Nevada resources. To measure Pre-project conditions (behaviors, knowledge, or attitudes), public meetings and focused group discussions during the public participation process with key stakeholders will provide a baseline of information to track this PM. Through this process, the Forest Service will provide awareness of watershed protection, the importance of retaining meadow habitat for wildlife and aquatic species, and increase the understanding of the natural environment. They will be able to monitor pre-project and post-project changes in knowledge and/or behavior through public meetings, correspondences, and through feedback received during the public scoping period.

## 10. Environmental Setting and Impacts

The Long Meadow Restoration Project is located within the boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Region in Tulare County. The project area is adjacent to Western Divide Highway (Mountain 107) within the Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia National Forest east of Porterville, California.

Western Divide Highway travels through the small residential communities of Camp Nelson, Cedar Slope, Johnsondale, and Ponderosa. This is the main travel artery to the southern portion of the Monument accessing developed and dispersed camping opportunities, multiple giant sequoia groves, fishing streams, and geologic features. Scenic attributes of the route include mountain meadows, diverse conifer forests, and giant sequoia groves; Needles and Dome Rock; views to distinctive ridgelines and features including Slate Mountain, Black Mountain grove, Solo Peak, Kern Plateau, and Nelson Peak.

Long Meadow is located in the Long Meadow Creek sub-watershed which drains to the Middle Kern River Watershed. The meadow is just downslope of Long Meadow Giant Sequoia Grove. Long Meadow Grove has a high concentration of giant sequoias compared to other groves on the Sequoia National Forest. The 341-acre grove contains approximately 125 giant sequoias greater than 10 feet in diameter. The largest tree has a diameter of 20 feet and is 220 feet in height. The estimated age of the larger giant sequoias is up to 1,500 years old.

Long Meadow is within the view shed of two existing campgrounds and a day use site adjacent to the grove and greatly enhances the recreational experience for visitors. The meadow provides value as a working landscape through its inclusion as part of an active grazing allotment, and also has importance to local Native American tribes as a historic use area. Also located within the Long Meadow grove is the Trail of 100 Giants loop trail, a popular recreation destination. The Forest Service would like to rehabilitate portions of this trail to further decrease sediment transport into stream environments and increase interpretive opportunities to accommodate the increasing number of forest visitors and provide more educational facilities to increase awareness and appreciation of giant sequoias.

The massive giant sequoias reside in a complex mosaic and provide some of the refuge areas for an abundance of wildlife including several sensitive species including the Pacific fisher, California spotted owl, American marten, northern goshawk, and a number of amphibians. While currently not detected, Long Meadow served as habitat for the mountain yellow-legged frog historically.

Climate change impacts were identified in the Presidential Proclamation, "Ancestral forms of giant sequoia were a part of the western North American landscape for millions of years. Giant sequoias are the largest trees ever to have lived, and are among the world's longest-lived trees, reaching ages of more than

3,200 years or more. Because of this great longevity, giant sequoias hold within their tree rings multi-millennial records of past environmental changes such as climate, fire regimes, and consequent forest response”

“Climatic change has also influenced the sequoia groves; their present highly disjunct distribution is at least partly due to generally higher summertime temperatures and prolonged summer droughts in California from about 10,000 to 4,500 years ago. During that period, sequoias were rarer than today. Only following a slight cooling and shortening of summer droughts, about 4,500 years ago, has the sequoia been able to spread and create today’s groves.”

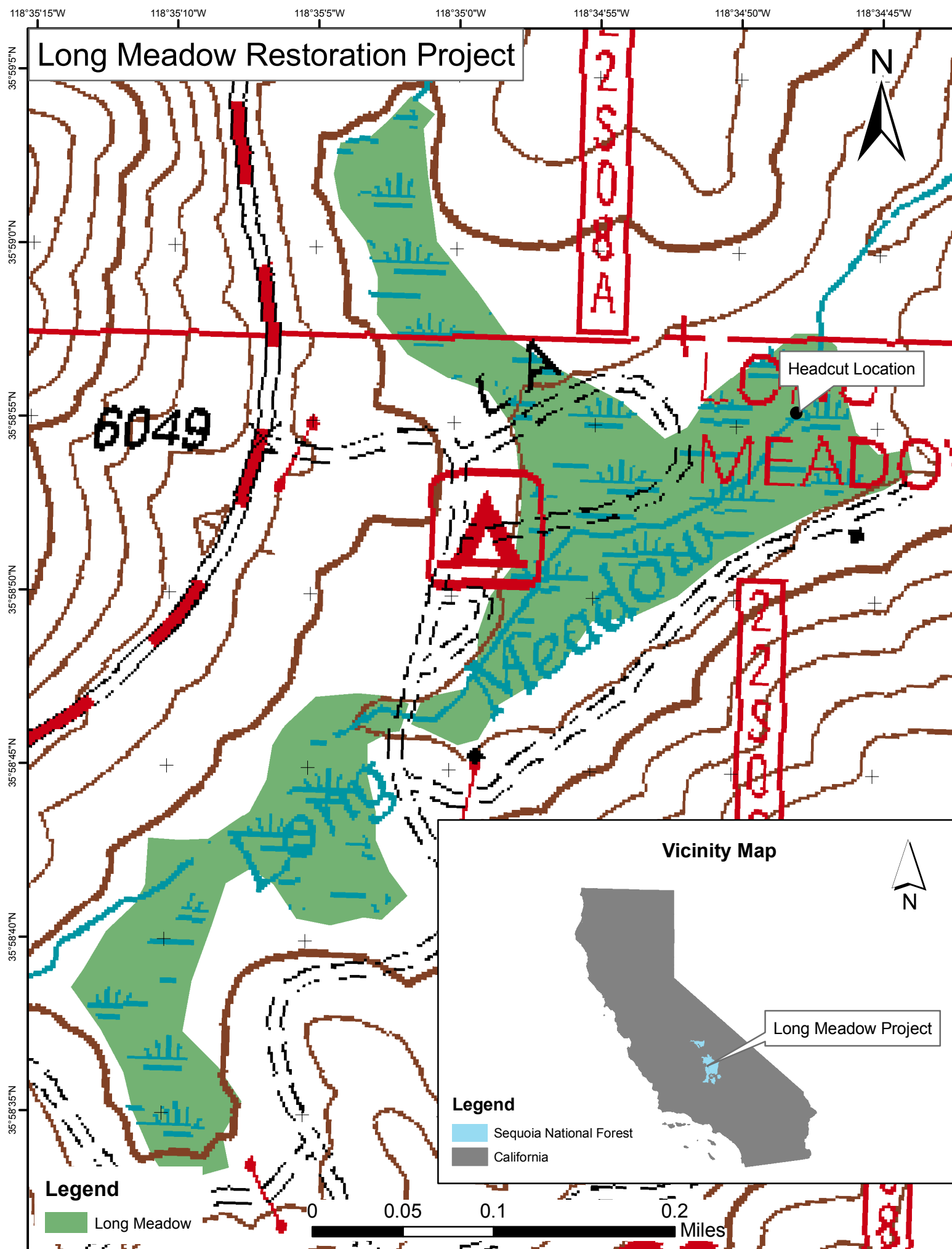
There is the potential to address climate change impacts through keeping well-managed, sustainable forests, recognizing that carbon dioxide in the atmosphere is absorbed by trees and plants through photosynthesis and stored as carbon in the soils and the tree trunks, branches, foliage and roots. The restoration project will assist in maintaining a healthy, hydrologic condition in the meadow a benefit for upslope forests, thus reducing the effects of climate change through increasing and protecting carbon sequestered in the working landscape.

Long Meadow has important cultural value for our local Native American tribe due to historic use, and is unique in both its scenic and natural setting due to its proximity to Long Meadow Grove.



## Location Map















## **15. Land Tenure**

The Long Meadow Restoration Project is located entirely on federal lands under the jurisdiction of the Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia National Forest. The Forest Service has legal ownership or other rights in this land, sufficient to conduct activities that are necessary for the completion of the project consistent with the terms and conditions of the grant agreement.

The Sequoia National Forest is within the statutory boundaries of the Sierra Nevada Conservancy located with the Upper Tule of the South Sierra Subregion.

## **16. Leases or Agreements**

Leases or Agreements are not applicable. Project lands are entirely located on federal land within Giant Sequoia National Monument, Sequoia National Forest.

## **17. California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)**

This is a Category Two grant application to fund the necessary components for completing CEQA environmental documentation and that is the reason why this component is not included with the application.

## **18. National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)**

This is a Category Two grant application for funding the necessary components for completing the environmental documentation for NEPA and that is why this component on the checklist is not included with the application.

## **19. Regulatory Requirements/Permits**

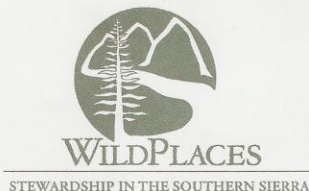
The following permits will be required for the Long Meadow Restoration Project:

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Regulatory Branch, Discharge of Dredge or Fill Material Into Water; Section 404 Permit.

CA Regional Water Quality Control Board: State Water Quality Certification, Clean Water Act, Section 401 Permit (based on Army Corps of Engineers recommendation)

Other Permit that may be needed include: California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) Stream and Lakebed Alteration Agreement.





Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, California 95603

September 3, 2010

To Whom It May Concern,

As the director of WildPlaces, I would like to express my support of Sequoia National Forest's Category Two Application requesting funds for the Long Meadow Restoration Project. Enhancing meadow habitat is absolutely necessary and needed to ensure that habitat, wildlife, water and recreational resources are healthy. This proposal clearly meets that need.

WildPlaces is a community based non-profit organization committed to the preservation and conservation of California's natural and rural landscapes, and the communities that rely on them. We have taken an active role in participating with Sequoia National Forest in meeting these objectives by participating in several restoration projects. As you know, efforts like these are instrumental in maintaining the long term health of our streams, watersheds, and recreation values.

Should funding be made available for the completion of the environmental review, WildPlaces intends to partner with the Forest Service in the implementation phase of this project. Service Learning is a holistic approach to education that combines classroom-based learning with hands-on events such as the Long Meadow Project. These combined methods dramatically increase students understanding about ecosystem concepts and society needs, especially when based in their own back yard. WildPlaces will continue to engage youth from a diversity of local high schools in Tulare and Kern Counties, at risk youth from the Los Angeles Basin, and youth from local tribes. Many of these youth have not experienced the recreational opportunities available to them through their public lands; or the practical ways each of us can make a tangible difference in our water quality for future generations.

Through our partnership with Sequoia National Forest, other resource agencies, and Sierra Nevada Conservancy, we have expanded our operations creating permanent job and volunteer opportunities, adding economic stability to our community. It is our hope that the Sierra Nevada Conservancy would support and fund the Long Meadow Restoration Project proposal.

Sincerely,

Mehmet McMillian  
WildPlaces Director

35625 Highway 190; Suite 203 • POB 853; Springville, CA 93265 •  
(559) 539-5263

info@wildplaces.net • www.wildplaces.net





## **Giant Sequoia National Monument**

### **Association, Inc**

35627 Highway 190

P.O. Box 468

Springville, CA 93265

September 8, 2010

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, California 95603

To Whom It May Concern,

As the Chairman of the Giant Sequoia National Monument Association, I would like to express my support of Sequoia National Forest's Category Two Application requesting funds for the Long Meadow Restoration Project. The Monument Association's overarching goal is to increase the public's enjoyment of Giant Sequoia National Monument and to showcase the unique treasures found within it. The Monument Association encourages the use of sound environmental practices by everyone to promote healthy ecosystems to ensure its perpetuity for future generations. We are a non-profit organization that engages in community-based collaborative activities that promote public caring for forest lands, and which works to establish and maintain partnerships with public and private entities that will work to benefit the Monument.

Long Meadow provides unique scenic value for the recreating public due to its adjacency to the Trail of 100 Giants, an extremely popular destination for many of the visitors that come to the Monument. We have worked with a cadre of volunteers this year to increase the public's enjoyment of the Long Meadow Giant Sequoia Grove and the natural environments that surround it, through volunteer docent led tours. Long Meadow is a part of this beautiful landscape and its continued degradation over the long term will result in the loss of meadow habitat and have consequences in the recreation experience for many of our visitors.

We are currently working with Sequoia National Forest to request funds from SNC through a Category 1 grant to improve trail conditions of the Trail of 100 Giants to reduce erosion and its offsite transport to Long Meadow. Together these two project proposals will work to maintain the health of these ecosystems, while providing improved recreation experience for our publics and economic benefit for our local communities. We are hoping for your support in these endeavors.

Sincerely,

Chairman,  
Giant Sequoia National Monument Association



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### **Association, Inc**

35627 Highway 190

P.O. Box 468

Springville, CA 93265

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Sincerely,

Chairman,  
Giant Sequoia National Monument Association





September 8, 2010

Sierra Nevada Conservancy  
11521 Blocker Drive, Suite 205  
Auburn, CA 95603

To Whom It May Concern:

As the owner of livestock permitted to graze within the Summit Allotment of the Sequoia National Forest, I would like to express my support for the Long Meadow Restoration Project proposed by the management of the forest. My permit encompasses many meadow and upland habitats, including Long Meadow. The Category Two Application requesting funds to restore meadow habitat and improve water quality is crucial to all of us that enjoy the multiple uses associated with Forest Service Lands. This proposal clearly meets those needs.

My family has ranched and grazed livestock within and adjacent to the Sequoia National Forest for the last 140 years, including years before the Forest Reserves were established in the early 1900's. We have always worked closely with the Forest Service to conserve and maintain the natural resources within the allotment. A long term view and preservation of this area for future generations has always been a priority with my family. We intend to continue this commitment and work with the Forest Service after the implementation of this project by managing our livestock to help insure its' success.

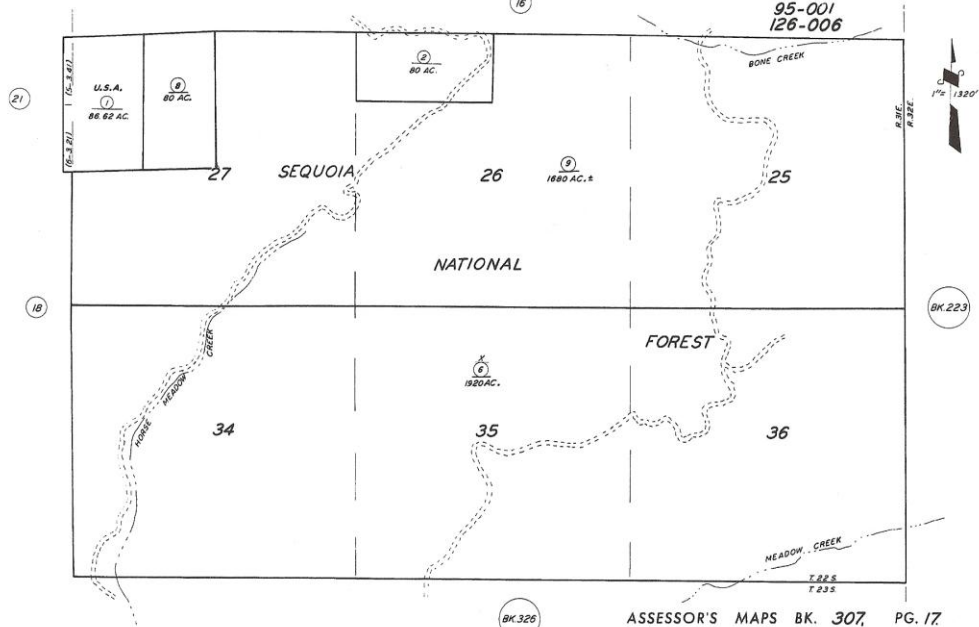
Sincerely,

J. Less Guthrie

SEC.'S 25, 26, 27, 34, 35, 36 & POR SEC. 28 T.22 S., R. 31 E., M.D.B. & M.

TAX CODE AREA  
126-001  
95-001  
126-006

307-17



ASSESSOR'S MAPS BK. 307, PG. 17  
COUNTY OF TULARE, CALIF.

NOTE - ASSESSOR'S BLOCK NUMBERS SHOWN IN ELLIPSES  
ASSESSOR'S PARCEL NUMBERS SHOWN IN CIRCLES